the repatriation of Bangladeshi Chama refugees from the refugee camps in Tripura would begin on January 15th. This was to be confirmed by a group of refugee leaders who visited the Chittagong Hill Tracts in early January 1987. They returned from that visit unconvinced that the refugees would be safe if they returned. This assessment was reinforced by the continuing inflow of refugees. In the circumstances the refugees refused to leave.

(c) No, Sir, as is evident from the above.

(d) Does not arise.

678. [*Transferred to the 18 November, 1987*]

Foreign bases active in Pakistan

679. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government had been drawn to a press news-item captioned "Foreign bases active in Pak" as reported in the Indian Express, dated 13th October, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the United States is providing military facilities in all parts of Pakistan; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and further precautionary steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen reports that the United States has acquired military facilities in Pakistan.

(c) Government are opposed to the setting up of foreign bases/facilities in any country and have made known their concerns in this regard to Pakistan and the United States. Both the USA and Pakistan deny the existence of any such bases in Pakistan. Government are, however, maintaining a constant vigil on all developments having bearing on India's security.

Raising of the Kashmir issue in the UN General Assembly by Pakistan

680. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has recently raised the question of Kashmir in the UN General assembly;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has reiterated that Kashmir is part of Pakistan;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan is not violating the Simla agreement by reiterating the Kashmir issue; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pakistan's violation of the Simla Agreement in this respect will not in any way change the status of Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India.

Strength of Supreme Court Judges

681. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of Supreme Court Judges